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The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Sept. 2006
Vol. 7, Issue 9
Kris Wessler,
Editor

Future Calendar Events

Oct 7, 9-12N	Landscape Extravaganza at St. Joan of Arc
Oct 10, 930-1130AM	Master Gardener Monthly Meeting at St. Luke's
Oct 10-12	Jim Orband out of town for Pesticide Safety Education
Oct 18, 12-1PM	Gardening Hearsay on WHRO, 89.5FM
Oct 19-22	225 th Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown
Oct 20, 8-5PM	Northeast District Fall Conference
Oct 24, 10-12N	Horticultural Therapy at York River Convalescent Center
Oct 3, 10, 12, 17, 24, 26, 31	2006 Peninsula Master Gardener training classes at Northside Church of Christ

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Becky Wells at 890-4940, or Kris Wessler at 988-0616 or e-mail jwessler@earthlink.net (put Green Thumb in the subject line). Ignore the computer-generated notice from Spamblocker. The deadline for *The Green Thumb* is ALWAYS the 15th of the month.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Becky at becky.wells@yorkcounty.gov. We want to keep all communication channels open. Any changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in *The Green Thumb*.

NEW E-MAIL: Teela and Jim Robertson: jimteela@peoplepc.com

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Dr. Mark A McCann, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Dr. Alma Hobbs, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.

Notes from Jim

With the 2006 Peninsula Master Gardener Training, I begin to start to look at our delivery system and to ask people to consider filling specific leadership positions in the program. I appreciate your willingness to do this. During this time, volunteers assess if they need a break from service. As you know, to continue your service as a Master Gardener, you need to volunteer 20 hours in an activity and gain 8 advanced education hours. Very soon I will be mailing the commitment form for you to return. You will have two options. One is to continue to be on the York County Master Gardener roster. This means that you will receive all Master Gardener information. It also means that coordinators may call you to help out with projects that they have. It also means that you must fulfill the state requirements of your volunteer hours. The other option is that you can go on inactive status. For the year, we will keep you inactive. Then around the same time in 2007, we will invite you to consider becoming active. It is your choice and I appreciate all that you do as a volunteer to extend the resources of the York Extension office. No action is required for now. Thank you for your consideration.

Don't forget to promote the upcoming Lawn Maintenance clinics:

- ❖ September 9, Free Fescue Lawn Maintenance Class at True Value Hardware, 10-12 noon
- ❖ September 23, Free Fescue Lawn Maintenance Class at Ken Mathews Nursery, 10-12 noon

The time line for York County Extension programs and activities has been completed. Thank you to Terry Hanson for her persistence, and to all coordinators that spent time developing this time line of what gets done when. This time line is a part of this document. It is done on 8.5X11 if you plan to print it.

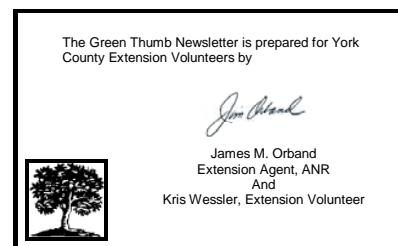
Master Gardeners are sometimes our only staff members of the York Extension Office. My staff members are encouraged to call my phone line directly. Please call me at 890-4944 and leave a detailed message or the question that you need answered. This helps us to get our business done. Please do not give 890-4944 to the general public.

Be sure to listen to *Gardening Hearsay* on September 20 from 12 - 1:00 PM on WHRO, 89.5FM

As you know, Christian Cheslak has been with us this summer as a summer intern. This position was created because of the infusion of money from our state director to allow college students to investigate a career path with Extension. Christian proved to be a big help. He got right off the ground with his work at 4-H camp and has been able to compile three 4-H project books along with support materials to include: 4-H Mums, 4-H Lawns, and 4-H Vegetable Gardening. He is developing pruning material on hydrangea as well as some other computer tasks. Thanks to Christian for his service. He will be studying law at Temple in Philadelphia this fall.

The York County Junior Master Gardener program was recognized for numerous awards from local and state agencies and twice named the national JMG club of the month. It was recognized at VA Tech as the outstanding youth gardening program by Master Gardeners.

Jim



Care of Common Plants of the Peninsula meeting will be held at the Extension Office at 9:30AM on Thursday, September 19. *Jackie Lohr*

Fall Landscape Extravaganza This annual fall event is just around the corner, and with your help in spreading the word and volunteering to assist, it should be a huge success! Mark your calendar for October 7th at St. Joan of Arc Church, 9041 George Washington Memorial Highway in Yorktown. This half-day event begins at 9:00AM with the orientation with classes starting at 9:15. There are six topics to choose from and participants will have their choice of two. This year's topics are:

Winter-Blooming Wonderland – Extending the season with color
(Kathy Duncan, Custom Gardens)

Think Spring in the Fall. Planting bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers for spring excitement
(Presenter: Brent Heath, Brent and Becky's Bulbs)

A Berry, Berry Winter – Attracting the birds in a colorful landscape
(Presenter: Greg Millslagle, Wild Birds Unlimited)

Winter Ensembles – Creating window boxes and containers using cold-tolerant combos
(Presenter: Bruce Barton, The Flower Pot)

Lawn Care for the Dormant Season – What your lawn needs now to weather the winter
(Presenter, Larry Riddick, York County Master Gardener)

The Dirt on Soil Improvement – Organic methods for overcoming poor soil
(Presenter, Bill Garlette, Newport News Master Gardener)

If you can help, volunteers will be solicited at the September 12th monthly meeting, plus, committee members will also be calling those who indicated their willingness to work this event. This requires only four hours of time as a moderator, manning the registration desk, or set-up/take down team member. To volunteer, contact Pat English at pjenglish@cox.net or 833-6610. Your help will be very much appreciated. *Pat English*

St. Luke's Food Closet As you are all aware, food closets provide much good in our community. St. Luke's, where we hold our monthly meetings, is very generous in allowing us the time and space to meet. It seems such a small token of appreciation that we MG's who attend also donate a food item for the Food Closet each month. Please bring anything but green beans and corn, which they receive in abundance. Some good items to donate are canned meats, spaghetti sauce, cereal, peanut butter and jelly. Thank you so much for your generosity in providing for others' needs.

Lawn Maintenance Clinics Two clinics will be held in September. They are FREE and open to the public. Please pre-register with the Extension Office. All clinics will be held on Saturdays and will begin at 10AM at the site and last approximately 2 hours.

Sept 9 at Grafton True Value Hardware

Sept 23 at Ken Matthews Nursery

There will also be a lawn care class at the Landscape Extravaganza on Oct 7. *Carol Tolson*

Horticultural Therapy Group at York Convalescent The next session will be Tuesday, September 26 at 10:15 a.m. Please contact Anita Lee (H: 766-1788, C: 810-8532 or leepropmgt@cox.net) to volunteer or if you have any supplies to donate. Volunteers are always needed to pick up the flowers from local florist shops. Please bring clippers, scissors and some greenery/flowers from your garden if possible. If you purchase flowers locally, please consider using the vendors who have continuously and generously supported this program: Floral Fashions in Poquoson, Yorktown Flower Shoppe, and Farm Fresh at Kiln Creek and in Grafton. Thanks to all the volunteers who regularly participate. You are appreciated! *Anita Lee*

Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown – America's Anniversary Signature Event The celebration for America's momentous 1781 Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown will be held during a 4-day event beginning October 19-22. Some of the activities included are:

Thursday, Oct 19: Yorktown Day Parade; 18th Century Military Tactics featuring the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps; a Salute to the Armed Forces; Visit the Godspeed replica ship.

Friday, Oct 20: The story (reenactment) of the arrival of the Jamestown settlers; Street Dancing; Anniversary Voices (live musical and dance production).

Saturday, Oct 21: Juried Art Show; Military concerts; Battlefield encampment/demonstrations; Children's parade and activity area; Battlefield tactical re-enactment program.

Sunday, Oct 22: March to Surrender Field; British Surrender Ceremony; Navy, Army and Marine Bands in concert; Fifes and Drums of Yorktown.

For more information, visit http://www.yorkcounty.gov/tourism/visitorinfo/225_events.pdf.

America's Anniversary Trees One of the numerous projects to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown and the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. The Governors of all 50 states and the territories were asked to contribute a symbolic, state ornament for each of two trees. One will be placed in York Hall in time for viewing during the October 19-22 Yorktown Day celebration. The other will be located in the rotunda of the York-Poquoson Courthouse and be available for viewing in December. Do you have your tree yet?

Labor Day Festivities for Historic Yorktown will include all kinds of concerts every day beginning on Friday, Sept 1 through Sunday, Sept 4. For more details, visit www.yorkcounty.gov/tourism or call 890-3500.

The Junior Master Gardening Program is looking for volunteers at the following schools. Coventry (Barb Dunbar), Mt. Vernon (Jody Turner) and Seaford (Teresa Bennett). Coventry will be meeting every other Wednesday starting mid October and ending in May (no meetings in December). For information on meetings at other schools, contact school coordinators. Volunteers can do as much or as little as they wish. For me, just having extra master gardeners to help carry out the lesson plan was the greatest help. I have lost Joanne Roberts this year due to her schedule and she was such a great help; her knowledge far exceeds mine! Thanks Joanne and if you ever want to visit or come back please do. Our JMG Program was recognized this year at the Master Gardener College and it is because of the great volunteers we had. THE JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS WANT YOU!!!

Horticulture Open House at the Virginia Zoo A very special day to spotlight the gardens on Sept 9th from 10-2. Activities include lecture, tours, displays, games and a plant sale. Rain date is Sept 10th. For more information, call 441-2374, ext 249, or visit www.virginiazoo.org. Marie Butler is the featured speaker.

Turf Stuff The latest VA-MD turfgrass variety recommendations have been posted for some time now, but several have told me they are having difficulty finding them. A new Clipping has just been posted at VTTURF that links to the CSES research website where the list is posted as a PDF file, OR it can be accessed through the Extension Publications link on VTTURF as well. The August 8-posted "Clipping" can be used as a reference for informing your clients how the recommendations are derived and why it can be difficult to locate recommended varieties from the garden centers of large retail stores. Hopefully this can direct customers towards seeking superior cultivars for fall renovation/seeding projects on cool-season lawns. More information can be found at www.vtturf.com.

September 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day Extension Office closed	5 Peninsula MG Trng 2006 begins at Northside Christian Church 9-12	6	7 Learning Garden 9:30	8	9 Lawn Mnt Clinic 10-12 Grafton True Value Hort Open House - VA Zoo 10-2
10	11	12 9:30-11:00 MG Monthly mtg St. Luke's MG2006 Tng 9-12	13 4-H Mums 6:30 p.m.	14 LG 9:30	15 <u>Green</u> <u>Thumb deadline</u>	16
17	18	19 CCPP Mtg 9:30 Ext Office Extension Leadership Com. 7-8:30 p.m. MG2006 Tng	20 12-1 WHRO Gardening Hearsay 89.5 FM	21 LG 9:30	22	23 Lawn Mntce Clinic 10-12 Ken Matthews Nursery - Grafton
24	25	26 Jamestown 4-H Cntr Board of Directors Mtg 1000 Hort Therapy at YRCC MG2006 Tng	27	28 LG 9:30	29	30